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## BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-254 (SUB-NO.10)

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY – ADVERSE ABANDONMENT – TRACK OF HOUSATONIC RAILROAD COMPANY IN FAIRFIELD AND NEW HAVEN COUNTIES, CONNECTICUT

## HOUSATONIC RAILROAD COMPANY REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPLY TO PETITION FOR WAIVER

Housatonic Railroad requests an extension of time until October 11, 2010 to file its reply to the Petition For Waiver filed by Providence and Worcester Railroad Company in the above entitled action.

On September 10, 2010, Providence and Worcester Railroad filed certain documents indicating that P&W intended to file an adverse abandonment against Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc. ("Housatonic"). The documents consisted of a letter requesting that the Board waive or substantially reduce its filing fees in connection with the proceeding ("Fee Waiver Request") and a filing entitled "Petition for Waiver of Providence and Worcester Railroad Company" requesting that the Board waive certain of its regulatory requirements ("Petition"). The Petition was submitted to the Board without the required filing fee.

Housatonic Railroad obtained a copy of the filings from the Board's web site and promptly prepared and filed a letter in opposition to the Fee Waiver Request.

Housatonic's response to the Fee Waiver Request was filed on September 15, 2010.

Thereafter, on September 15, 2010, the copy of the P&W submittal that was mailed by P&W counsel was delivered to Housatonic's counsel.

On September 16, 2010, P&W paid the filing fee associated with the Waiver and on September 21, 2010 Housatonic Railroad was notified that the fee had been paid.

The reasons that the extension of time is needed include:

- Because the filing fee had not been paid nor waived, Housatonic Railroad
  believed that the Petition could not be considered until the fee was paid or
  waived and did not address the details of the waiver when it addressed the Fee
  Waiver Request, and Housatonic so stated in its response.
- The filing fee for the Petition was not paid until after Housatonic Railroad filed its response to the Fee Waiver Request.
- 3. Housatonic Railroad did not learn that the filing fee for the Petition had been paid until September 21, 2010.
- 4. If the Petition is considered to have been filed on September 10, 2010 then a response would be otherwise required by September 30, 2010, giving Housatonic Railroad only about a week to prepare the response.

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5. Counsel for Housatonic Railroad is scheduled to leave on a brief vacation on

September 22, 2010

6. The issues presented by the proposed adverse abandonment and subsequent

attempt to purchase the line of railroad subject to abandonment are novel and

complicated, require significant research, and these issues must be addressed

in a preliminary manner in response to the Petition.

7. An extension of time will not unduly delay the proceeding since the Fee

Waiver Request is still pending before the Board..

WHEREFORE, Housatonic Railroad Company respectfully requests that Board grant its

request for an extension of time to reply to Providence and Worcester Railroad's Petition

for Waiver dated September 10, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Rodriguez, Esq.

8 Davis Road West

P.O. Box 687

Old Lyme, CT 06371

Telephone: 860-434-4303

Facsimile: 860-434-4306

Dated: September 22, 2010

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Request for Extension of Time to Reply to

Petition for Waiver was served this date on the following parties:

Edward D. Greenberg
David K. Monroe
GKG Law, P.C.
Canal Square
1054 Thirty-First Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Marie Angelini, Esq.
Providence and Worcester Railroad Co.
75 Hammond Street
Worcester, MA 01610

Dated: September 22, 2010

Edward J. Rodriguez